



Important Hurricane Telephone Numbers

Palm Beach County Division of Emergency Management:
(561) 712-6400
www.pbcgov.com/pubsafety/eoc/

Hearing Impaired (TTY/TTD):
(561) 712-6343

American Red Cross Greater Palm Beach Area Chapter:
(561) 833-7711
www.redcross-pbc.org

Palm Beach County Sheriff's Department:
(561) 688-3000 (non-emergency)

School District of Palm Beach County:
(561) 434-8000
www.palmbeach.K12.fl.us

Palm Beach County Animal Care & Control:
(561) 233-1200

Disabled Transportation Assistance:
(561) 649-9848

Special Needs Shelter/ Emergency Medical Services:
(561) 712-6400

FL Department of Financial Services Hurricane Helpline: (800) 227-8676

Report power outages to FPL: 1-800-468-8243. Residents with questions before, during and after a hurricane should call 211.

“...time for open discussions on ways to generate new revenue...”



The state budget approved on the final day of the 2010 session includes funding for many important local and statewide projects; but it fails, in my opinion, to meet the needs of Floridians. Therefore, I voted against the \$70.4 billion spending plan, and I urged Governor Charlie Crist to veto at least portions of the financial package.

The budget makes college more expensive. It makes state roads more crowded, doesn't improve health outcomes for all people, and fails to make job creation the top priority.

Granted, it was a huge challenge this year to write a budget. The Legislature began the session facing a \$3 billion shortfall. Thankfully, our state was able to rely upon another \$2.3 billion in federal stimulus money approved last year by President Obama and Congress along with another \$270 million in assistance that Congress is expected to approve. A new gaming compact with the Seminole Indian tribe also helps to balance the budget with a projected \$433 million in revenues for the state.

I am disappointed that the budget the Legislature approved would have lead to the loss of potentially thousands of jobs throughout Florida due to the decision to shift \$160 million from the state's transportation trust fund to other spending. I opposed that decision and I am grateful that Governor Charlie Crist vetoed that shift in funds.

The budget also makes cuts to a highly successful program that helps new mothers considered at risk for abusing or neglecting their children. A \$10 million cut to the Healthy Families program amounts to more than a third of its budget. Roughly 3,500 of more than 8,700 families are expected to be dropped from the program.

Healthy Start coalitions, which serve at-risk pregnant women and infants, will see a cut of \$2.6 million. Additionally, contributions to county health departments are cut by \$10.5 million.

It's also of serious concern to me that funding for nursing homes and hospitals are cut, including a 7-percent reduction in state payments for the care of indigent patients.

I fear that our state will continue to face budget shortfalls and cuts to vital programs and services until legislators are willing to take a hard look at Florida's tax structure. It is time for open discussions on ways to generate new revenue such as closing tax loop holes and eliminating sales tax exemptions on luxury items.

Rep. Mark Pafford's 2010 District 88 Update

From The Florida House Of Representatives



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Dear Friends and Neighbors,

I am pleased to continue to serve as your voice in the Florida House of Representatives, and I thank you for the opportunity during this challenging time for our state. Representing your interests in the Florida House of Representatives continues to be a welcomed challenge.

While much of the country is recovering from the recession, Florida continues to face economic hurdles. Therefore, during the 2010 legislative session, my colleagues and I focused much of our attention on economic development and job creation. In addition, we confronted a number of issues important to District 88, including Florida's budget, education, and healthcare.

During the 2010 legislative session, I worked closely with Palm Beach County State Attorney Michael McAuliffe to pass a bill that will help fight crime more successfully and efficiently. House Bill 183 will allow the state attorney to utilize special investigators to investigate criminal matters where a special task force may be beneficial. This legislation is fiscally responsible because it allows the state attorney's office to have investigative support without bearing the financial burden.

This year, I was pleased to continue to serve on the Military and Local Affairs Committee. I also serve on the Natural Resources Appropriations Committee and the Elder and Family Services Policy Committee. As a member of these committees, I am able to work on legislation that has a direct impact on the health and well-being of our seniors, protects Florida's vital natural resources, and other issues that affect us here at home. Committee meetings are the first step in the legislative process where citizens can participate, and I enjoy receiving input and feedback so that I may better represent you in Tallahassee.

I hope that this newsletter provides you with an informative summary of the past legislative session. If you should have questions or would like to discuss any of the issues, please contact my office.

It is an honor to advocate for our community in the Florida House of Representatives!

Sincerely,

Mark Pafford
State Representative
District 88



Rep. Pafford serves on the following committees: Elder and Family Services Policy Committee; Natural Resources Appropriations Committee; and Military and Local Affairs Policy Committee

To subscribe to Rep. Pafford's monthly email newsletter, please send an email to mark.pafford@myfloridahouse.gov and type "SUBSCRIBE" in the subject line.

“...promote the recovery of our state’s economy.”



The Legislature also passed a \$200 million jobs package (over 3 years) that is designed to make Florida more economically competitive and to encourage companies to invest in our state and hire Floridians.

Throughout the session, I supported various efforts that help Florida consumers, including a reinstatement of Florida’s back-to-school sales tax holiday that benefits Florida’s families. The tax holiday provides a one-time, three-day sales tax holiday for clothing and other school supplies purchased from August 13-15, 2010.

These dollars belong to Florida’s taxpayers who deserve some of it back as they stretch their hard-earned dollars to ensure their children have needed school supplies. Additionally, the tax relief measure will help spur growth in our vital retail economy. This year’s back-to-school tax holiday is expanded to include, among other items, pens, pencils, notebooks, notebook paper, rulers, glue, binders, lunch boxes, construction paper, markers and folders.

I was proud this session to support new policies that promote the recovery of our state’s economy. For me, job creation for Floridians was the number one priority.

It was important for me to meet the expectations of Florida’s families and businesses who asked the Legislature to encourage new businesses, promote job creation, and remove barriers to economic growth.

I supported legislation to keep Floridians working and prevent layoffs in order to bring a measure of economic stability. For instance, we passed a bill on the first day of session to hold down a dramatic increase in unemployment tax rates for businesses for the next two years. These increases would have resulted in layoffs for Floridians.

“...Health care for Floridians was among my major priorities...”



House Joint Resolution 37 was proposed in an effort to block certain requirements under the new federal health care reform law. A constitutional amendment on this issue will appear on the November 2010 ballot.

The topic of women’s reproductive rights surfaced in the final days of the session. I opposed a final version of House Bill 1143, which included two controversial components: a statutory ban on health insurance “mandates” and a provision that requires a woman to undergo and view an ultrasound before having an abortion during the first trimester. I am hopeful that Governor Charlie Crist vetoes this legislation.

The Legislature also held a series of discussions regarding a major overhaul of Medicaid. The concept was widely criticized by doctors, hospitals and advocates who believed that it would have decreased access to care. Fortunately, the Senate did not take up the legislation.

Health care for Floridians was among my major priorities during this session. Though we were able to provide funding for many basic health services during a tough budget year, I am deeply disappointed by cuts to programs for vulnerable residents.

Much of the session’s health care discussions, however, focused on issues that were of a political nature instead of proactive policy changes that would benefit all Floridians.

“...promote the development of renewable energy...”



I continued to support policies that promote the development of renewable energy resources and the jobs that will be created in that growing economic sector.

In addition, to encourage development of new markets for sustainable and renewable energy, I supported smart investments in important public works projects in communities throughout the state.

I backed a bipartisan effort to make clean energy technology accessible to homeowners and businesses. Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing, which is at the heart of House Bill 7179, provides local governments the flexibility to create programs to lend funds that homeowners or businesses can use to pay for improvements such as solar panels, high-efficiency water heaters, and storm hardening for their homes. The loans can be repaid over time depending on the amount and specific terms of the loan and can also be repaid as part of a participating homeowner’s property tax bill.

I also supported a consumer-friendly program that began this year. From April 16 through April 25, Florida residents were able to receive a rebate on the purchase of energy-efficient appliances. Consumers saved money on the purchase price of designated ENERGY STAR appliances, and will continue to save money each month on their energy and water bills. Retailers all over Florida benefitted through the increase in sales of appliances.

“...the first step toward creating high-wage jobs...”



I believe that improving public education is the first step toward creating high-wage jobs and the quality workforce that the 21st century economy demands. Our students need a quality education to ensure that they are prepared for the future.

The state budget approved by the Legislature does not sufficiently fund education. The average per-student spending was increased by only \$1.22. School officials say their expenses, including insurance, retirement benefits and utilities will far outstrip that increase.

In terms of overall school funding, this budget presents the second-worst per student funding level since 2006. What’s more, the budget includes whopping new university tuition

hikes of up to 15 percent, just as it cuts scholarship awards under the Bright Futures program.

I was greatly disappointed by the Legislature’s decision to pass Senate Bill 6. This measure drew widespread attention and criticism from across the state for how it would have negatively affected our teachers. Thankfully, Governor Crist vetoed this bill, which in my view, would have punished our school teachers and harmed education in our state.

Since voters passed the Class Size Reduction amendment in 2002, schools are less crowded and students have a more productive learning environment. In 2002, the average classroom for PreK-3 had 23 students, today it is 16. The average classroom size for grades 4-8 had 24 students, today it is 19; and the average classroom for grades 9-12 had 24 students, today it is 22. This November, voters will be asked to revisit the class size goals. I believe that the plan going back to the voters to change the class size amendment risks unraveling the progress and weakening class-size gains.